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38

Office of the Air Attache
American Embassy
Madrid, Spain

24 September 1951

MEMO FOR:

SUBJECT: Further Activities of Colonel Otto SKORZENY

1. The following information is submitted for your use relative to further activities of Colonel Otto SKORZENY who arrived in Madrid 1400 hours, 22 September. I saw SKORZENY for about an hour on the night of the 22nd and again for an hour and a half on the night of the 23rd.

2. During the seven weeks SKORZENY was away from Madrid, he apparently worked hard traveling the length and breadth of Germany as fast as a car would take him. By his own admission he states he travelled 16000 kms in Germany alone, seeing various friends and contacts and apparently keeping his hand in German affairs. He states he was given a new automobile, a Borg-Warner - the same type he had before, merely for the price of five tires. While in Essen, he was given a semi-official welcome and told he should run for Mayor.

3. He spoke at some length of a new German Old Soldiers Organization. Such organization apparently is founded by German soldiers of the II who desire to become strong enough to form a bulwark of some sort having a voice in the German Government. SKORZENY admits that he has not been visibly active in the founding of this organization, but states he has done plenty behind the scenes on the inside of the movement pulling all wires available. His feelings seemed to be hurt when someone told him that he should not be allowed any say in the organization inasmuch as he is not eligible because he is in exile.

4. SKORZENY states he has vital information relative to one Francois FOUSET, French High Commissioner in the French Zone, and ROTHSCHILD, French banker. He implies the information he has on these individuals was obtained by covert means through a secretary,

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

(2)(A) Privacy ☐

(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒

(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

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and ties in with a Russian spy ring operating in the West Zone. SKORZENY states he actually has a courier planted in the ring and can tell us more in about two weeks. It appears to me subject is attempting to gain a high level entree in the American Embassy by revealing this information because he stated he would turn this information over to one of Mr. Hoover's representatives (apparently he means the FBI). I informed him I didn't know of any such organization in the country at this time, but if he felt he wasn't wasting my time (and yours, too) I could pass the information on to a suitable individual who I am sure could use it.

5. Subject saw General Heinz GUDERIAN and a Colonel General FRIESNER, who like GUDERIAN is a tank expert but somewhat lesser known. I was somewhat surprised to learn from SKORZENY's wife that in her estimation he has fallen in respect in their eyes. SKORZENY himself made no such implication. Subject also saw MESSERSCHMIDT any number of times. He related once again MESSERSCHMIDT cannot legally work in Germany - this is, draw airplane designs - therefore, he journeys to Switzerland periodically with his pockets full of papers, draws for a few days at a small office which he maintains and then returns to Germany. He reiterated again MESSERSCHMIDT was coming to Spain about the first of October to carry out a plan which I have previously related to you. (Note: This character MESSERSCHMIDT frankly worries me inasmuch as he wants some fifty of his own designers to be with him in Spain. They do not actually construct aircraft in production but merely work on proto-types and development. On the surface it would appear he and his organization are working for the Spanish, but we know their capabilities toward aircraft production, and it seems entirely logical we will be having the German air industry re-created under our very noses).

6. SKORZENY also saw his old enemy General SPEIDEL in the Black Forest on 19 September. SKORZENY relates SPEIDEL sent word he would like to see him, whereupon SKORZENY informed the messenger if SPEIDEL wants to see him let him come to SKORZENY's hotel - and SPEIDEL did. Subject relates he was almost embarrassed by the attitude of Speidel who is considered the number one general in American eyes, and fawning over SKORZENY, a lowly colonel. Subject relates SPEIDEL wants to be friends, said they must work together for the good of Germany. This, Skorzeny claims, indicates Speidel is now out inasmuch as he has lowered himself to this degree. Last night Skorzeny mentioned several names, among whom was a former sharp-shooter who served under Skorzeny's command in the SS, who at one time accounted for 163 Russians at a beach head on the ODER in four weeks. I believe he said this man's name was LOGONITZ. He also mentioned a man by the name of NEUMAN, stating that these men would arrive in Madrid soon and he would be happy to present them to me. Somewhat later the telephone rang and the conversation was all in German, and SKORZENY addressed the other party as "Professor",

-14-

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and I heard the city of Toledo mentioned on two occasions. At the end of the conversation Skorzeny informed me this gentleman to whom he was talking was the sharp-shooter we had discussed before. He was now in town. Approximately fifteen minutes later the maid came to the room and informed Skorzeny there was some gentleman waiting to see him down stairs, whereupon Skorzeny beamed and said that his friend (obviously the sharp-shooter) was down stairs. I remained at the house about fifteen minutes longer and then excused myself, and by passing through the hall I could peer through an opening in the drawn curtain in the living room, which revealed five or six men all speaking German.

7. Skorzeny's wife, Ilse, is now very desirous of coming to the States, but she is quite afraid that the United States will not grant her a visa. I informed her that I was not aware of our present consular rules and regulations; therefore, she would have to test this problem herself. She informed me that her sister, Mrs. Charles BARNETT, 41 Central Park West, New York, now married to a former U.S. Army captain, has been trying for some time to get an American passport so that she may return to Germany to see her father who apparently is old and ill. So far the passport is not forthcoming, and apparently her sister has expressed fear that in all probability she will not get the passport. Her sister also revealed the FBI paid a call at her home a month or so ago and attempted to query her at length relative to the whereabouts of her brother-in-law, Otto SKORZENY. Perhaps, what is even more interesting Ilse revealed with a chuckle, her brother-in-law, Mr. BARNETT, is half Jewish.

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